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Chairman:	Mr. Effah-Apenteng	(Ghana)
later:	Mr. Ivashchenko (Vice-Chairman)	(Ukraine)
later:	Mr. Effah-Apenteng (Chairman)	(Ghana)
	Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle	

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 133: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Support Account (*continued*) (A/56/882, A/56/885 and A/56/941)

Entitlement of restitution (*continued*) (A/56/789 and A/56/887)

Progress report of the Secretary-General on write-off of contingent-owned equipment in liquidated missions (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/43)

1. **Mr. Soto** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, commended the Secretariat on its first-time use of results-based budgeting.

2. More than 200 new support account posts had been approved as a result of the process initiated by the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations; it was now time to deliver. Although there had been significant improvements in the Secretariat's performance in a number of areas, there was still room for improvement.

3. While regretting its late issuance, the European Union supported most of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/56/941), particularly the recommendation on the establishment of a post of Director of Change Management in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which would bring about a much-needed overhaul and strengthening of the Department's management system and practices. Since disarmament, demobilization and reintegration were increasingly critical to the success of peacekeeping operations, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) must have the capacity to fully backstop and coordinate efforts in that area. The European Union fully supported the establishment of a P-4 post for that purpose.

4. Since the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women was not in a position to undertake additional responsibility for gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations, specialized gender expertise was clearly needed within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in order to mainstream the gender perspective into all its activities. It was disappointing that the Secretariat had again failed to properly describe the role and activities of the proposed senior gender adviser.

5. The European Union also recognized that the Secretariat should have adequate capacity to prepare and deliver guidance and support for public information. It noted in that connection that the Department of Public Information, in consultation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other parts of the Secretariat, was developing standard operating procedures for public information components in peacekeeping and other types of missions.

6. The number of support account posts should be directly correlated with the existing number of peacekeeping operations and the financing of permanent support account posts should be avoided for the near future.

7. **Mr. Duval** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that the recent increase in the support account budget demonstrated the importance that Member States attached to ensuring an adequate support capacity for peacekeeping. However, certain key areas had yet to be addressed.

8. Canada, Australia and New Zealand were encouraged by the renewed commitment to establishing a post of Director of Change Management, which continued to be a priority. They also welcomed the resubmission of the request for the establishment of the posts of senior gender adviser and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Programme officer, both of which were designed to make a substantive difference on the ground. It was regrettable, however, that, given the increasing need to address humanitarian issues in the field, the request for a humanitarian affairs officer had not been resubmitted.

9. The Advisory Committee's recommendations in favour of the Director of Change Management and DDR posts were most welcome. Canada, Australia and New Zealand noted, however, that the Committee had again recommended against the establishment of a dedicated capacity for addressing gender issues in peacekeeping operations, even though there was little doubt that Member States considered such capacity to be a priority. The importance of incorporating a gender

perspective into peacekeeping missions and — ensuring an appropriate backstopping capacity — had been stressed in numerous contexts, including Security Council resolutions. Women accounted for the vast majority of those affected by armed conflict, yet their marginalization in post-conflict resolution was all too common. The experience of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) had shown that a properly established gender capacity could have a dramatically positive effect. There was no capacity at Headquarters to learn from or to systemically apply lessons drawn from such experiences.

10. Current efforts to translate the political will of Member States into operational reality were not being realized. Instead, the issue was being passed from Committee to Committee, with little impact on the Organization's capacities. There was a need to approach the issue differently and to clarify the purpose and objectives of such capacity in relation to peacekeeping missions. Member States must provide the necessary resources for that initial conceptual work. Without minimal capacity, questions of policy direction could not be adequately addressed. The staffing of gender expertise was crucial in order to translate political support for gender mainstreaming into practical reality. Policy development was surely sufficiently urgent to warrant the approval of resources for such a capacity.

11. **Ms. Lalić-Smajević** (Yugoslavia), referring to the issue of entitlement to restitution, recalled that Yugoslavia had joined the United Nations on 1 November 2000. During the period for which instances of entitlement had been reviewed, Yugoslavia had thus not been a Member of the United Nations, nor had it signed a status-of-forces agreement or been a party to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. The report of the Secretary-General (A/56/789) had failed, however, to take account of that fact or to make appropriate recommendations.

12. The Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia had received a note verbale dated 18 December 2000 from the Secretary-General requesting reimbursement for expenditures incurred for peacekeeping operations in the region. The Mission had requested clarification of whether the General Assembly's reaffirmation in resolution 51/12 A of 4 November 1996 that the costs of the combined Forces were expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States applied to Yugoslavia. As yet, no response had been received. The fact that Yugoslavia had not been a Member of the Organization at the time when the expenditures were incurred should be reflected in the decision to be taken by the Committee.

13. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) reiterated Norway's strong support for United Nations peacekeeping missions and welcomed the fact that the support account estimates had been presented using the results-based budgeting format. The Advisory Committee's observations and recommendations should be taken into account in further refining the format.

14. Her delegation welcomed the emphasis on internal management reform within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and fully supported the establishment of a new post of Director of Change Management. The Department's capacity to backstop and coordinate the DDR Programme should also be strengthened.

15. In its resolution 1325 (2000), the Security Council had recognized the urgent need to incorporate and mainstream a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations. The recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that there should be adequate back-up in the Secretariat had been endorsed by the General Assembly. It was thus most regrettable that the Advisory Committee had again failed to support the establishment of a new post of senior gender adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

16. The Secretariat should provide information on the status of its elaboration of a comprehensive policy on gender mainstreaming. Although the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement on Women had the mandate to provide advice and support and to monitor progress in each department, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was responsible for gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations. Those were complementary, but separate functions.

17. **Ms. Wang** Xinxia (China) welcomed the introduction of results-based budgeting, which had provided a clearer assessment of expected achievements. The process, however, should be further simplified. The new budget should also establish the necessary achievement indicators for training activities.

18. The Secretariat should clarify the current vacancy rate for the 91 posts that had been approved in December 2001 for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and account for any recruitment failures. It should also explain the need for 12 additional posts if the recruitment process had yet to be completed. Her delegation would also appreciate information on the geographical distribution of new recruits and on the extent to which the gender perspective had been mainstreamed into the recruitment process.

19. **Mr. Elgammal** (Egypt) said that United Nations peacekeeping operations were an effective means of preserving international peace and security. Financing of those operations was a continuing cause for concern, which was why all Member States must pay their contributions in full, on time and without conditions.

20. Despite the reduction in the debt owed to troop- and equipment-contributing countries, payment delays persisted, which was a matter of particular concern for developing countries.

21. The use of results-based budgeting for the support account was particularly welcome. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendations in that connection, in particular its refusal to endorse the proposal to establish a post of senior gender adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

22. Regrettably, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) had not yet completed its report on appointments to peacekeeping operations, which would have helped to justify the proposed increase in personnel and resources for peacekeeping operations. The report would have also highlighted the continuing inadequacies in respect of geographical distribution and representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department. His delegation joined the representative of China in requesting additional information concerning all recruitment since December 2001 and recruitment for senior posts from troop-contributing countries.

23. The progress report on the write-off of contingent-owned equipment at liquidated missions (A/C.5/56/43) contained positive indications regarding compliance with the 30 June 2002 deadline by which claims should be completed. His delegation had been concerned to note the request for an extension of the deadline and would appreciate further clarification on that point

24. **Ms. Thomas** (Jamaica) said that her delegation supported the measures that had been proposed by the Secretary-General to respond more effectively to peacekeeping challenges. It also welcomed the shift towards results-based budgeting for the support account and hoped that the new approach would achieve the desired objectives and that the Advisory Committee's constructive criticisms would be taken into account.

25. The scale of current peacekeeping operations demanded a high level of backstopping from Headquarters to ensure that operations were effectively coordinated and she therefore welcomed the proposed increase in the Secretariat's support capacity. To that end, her delegation supported the proposed staffing structure outlined in the Secretary-General's report. The increase in posts should, however, be tied to more effective overall management of peacekeeping operations.

26. Her delegation was puzzled as to why the Advisory Committee had again failed to recommended acceptance of the proposal for the creation of the post of senior gender adviser. Jamaica continued to support the creation of such a post, in view of the need for adequate backup for gender advisers in the field. The role of senior gender adviser was critical to ensuring that the gender perspective was mainstreamed into all aspects of the Department's mandate, including the formulation of peacekeeping mandates. The post should, moreover, be at an appropriately senior level so that the appointee could work closely with the Under-Secretary-General.

27. She fully concurred with the comments made by the representative of Canada regarding the need for adequate resources and a coordinated strategy for gender mainstreaming within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

28. Her delegation was encouraged by the increased expenditure committed to training and supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning the need for a monitoring system to evaluate results and to make training more mission-specific.

29. Public information played a pivotal role in the implementation of mission mandates and she hoped that the Committee would take a decision on staffing levels in the Department of Public Information during the main part of the Assembly's fifty-seventh session.

30. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation had no problem with the results-based budgeting approach, but felt that it should be further strengthened. The precise and objective criteria set out in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly must be scrupulously observed. His delegation agreed with the position of the Advisory Committee, as stated in paragraph 19 of its report (A/56/941), that an increase in workload should not automatically lead to additional posts. In the first instance, the increase should be accommodated through increased productivity and efficiency.

31. His delegation would like more information on the training provided to peacekeeping personnel, specifically, how it was conducted, who was responsible, who were the trainers, who provided the coordination and whether there was cooperation between certain countries and the trainers.

32. The posts requested for the Department of Public Information should be considered in the Committee on Information, bearing in mind the need for equality among the official languages.

33. His delegation agreed with the observations of the representative of India regarding the inflation of resources under the support account compared with the regular budget. The $3 billion budget for the support account, which far exceeded the regular budget, had sometimes been adopted within a matter of hours, while months were spent debating the regular budget. Peacekeeping operations should receive support, but a new approach to the budget process was needed.

34. **Mr. Farid** (Saudi Arabia) commended the Secretariat for presenting the estimates for support account resources using the results-based budgeting format. Given the increasing emphasis being placed on staff mobility, he wondered whether a staff member recruited against the support account would be rotated in accordance with the rules governing mobility or moved laterally to a regular budget post after five years.

35. **Mr. Kadiri** (Morocco) said that peacekeeping operations should be given adequate resources. His delegation shared the views of the Advisory Committee regarding the support account. It welcomed the results-based budgeting format and hoped that improvements would continue. It regretted, however, that the Secretariat had not been able to complete work on the write-off of contingent-owned equipment at liquidated missions.

36. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that, in preparing future budget proposals, the Secretariat would take into account the views that had been expressed by members of the Committee and the comments of the Advisory Committee on the new format of results-based budgeting.

37. Most of the questions that had been asked were related to the issues of recruitment and vacancies. With regard to the 93 posts that had been approved based on the recommendations contained in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (Brahimi report) (A/55/305-S/2000/809), recruitment had been completed for all but four posts, for which it was necessary to await the results of competitive examinations. Of the 91 posts that had been recommended in the second Brahimi report, 73 had already been filled, 40 of them on a permanent and 33 on a temporary basis, the latter pending a review of the applicants. Over 9,000 applications had been received for the 91 approved posts, which was an indication of the level of interest in working for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. As to the question of why 12 more posts were needed if not all of the previously approved posts had been filled, the additional posts would bring the Department up to full operational readiness.

38. Gender was one of the criteria used in recruitment. The Secretariat would seek information on the overall policy on gender mainstreaming from the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women and he would revert to the issue at a later stage. He would also revert to the issue of training, about which a number of detailed questions had been asked, during the informal consultations.

39. On the subject of write-offs, all 36 of the Member States that had pending claims had been contacted, but 21 of them had not yet responded. As a result, the Secretariat now planned to complete its work in December instead of June.

40. The recent administrative instructions on the new personnel policy and recruitment procedures, including the mobility aspect, were not expected to have any material impact on any of the posts funded under the support account. Indeed, the movement of staff from one source of funding to another was quite common throughout the system. And, lastly, the resident

auditors were not funded from the support account but from individual peacekeeping missions. The formulas that had been agreed on for their employment had been largely applied to missions also and the particular circumstances of individual missions were taken into account. There was an outstanding issue with regard to resident auditors in the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), but the proposal for the establishment of resident auditors in those missions had been received well after the budget proposals had already been formulated and transmitted to the Advisory Committee. The matter would therefore be taken up again when the next round of peacekeeping budget proposals was being submitted. In the meantime, there were resources in each peacekeeping mission to provide for field visits by staff from Headquarters to carry out audits. That arrangement had been used in the past and had proven to be effective.

Agenda item 123: Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (*continued*)

Proposals to implement General Assembly resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences (A/56/919)

Strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/56/7/Add.9 and A/56/848)

41. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences (A/56/919), recalled that, by its resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001, the General Assembly had decided to reduce resources by $75.2 million for the biennium 2002-2003 but had included no specific provision for interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, as specified in paragraph 18 of section II of resolution 56/242. In its resolution 56/242, the Assembly had approved the meeting calendar. The Secretariat had been assigned the task of implementing the resolution with significantly reduced servicing capacity.

42. The annex to the report showed that, even though resources had been stagnant, an increasing number of meetings had been accommodated through technological advances. The reduction realized in cost per meeting also indicated an increase in productivity. The number of meetings for the biennium would rise, partly because of an increase in meetings of the Security Council and of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which would make it more difficult to service all requested meetings. In addition, no measures had been taken to mitigate delays in the processing of verbatim and summary records. The number of meetings not programmed on the calendar for the biennium and which received services on an "as available" basis had also increased. For its part, the Office of Central Support Services, which also provided services to meetings, had experienced a 14.6 per cent reduction in its capacity. It would not be possible to restore services to their previous level without additional resources. Productivity could not be expected to rise, as the budget for information technology had also been cut by $10 million.

43. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/56/848), he said that, following the events of 11 September 2001, the Secretary-General had taken a number of steps to strengthen the security and safety of the United Nations. The short-term measures already reported to the General Assembly had been largely implemented. The current report contained a set of proposals for the long-term strengthening of security and safety based on a comprehensive review of arrangements at Headquarters and other main locations, supplemented by findings of security assessment missions to the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the regional commissions. Security-related projects originally proposed for Headquarters in the capital master plan were now proposed for immediate implementation, as indicated in annex II to the report. Details of the requirements for the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi as well as of the regional commissions were also given. One-time costs were listed in annex I and in paragraphs 39 to 45. A total of 130 posts were being requested throughout the United Nations system, the details of which could be found in paragraph 45. There had also been a substantial increase amounting to $2.3 million in insurance premiums since the 11 September attacks. An additional appropriation of $57.7 million would be required as a supplementary appropriation for the biennium.

44. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), orally introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the provisions of resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences (A/56/919), said that the Secretary-General recommended in his report that the General Assembly should take note of the measures outlined in paragraphs 16 to 18 of the report. The report did not contain budgetary proposals for consideration by the Advisory Committee; it dealt with the implementation of resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences, a subject that was also within the purview of the Committee on Conferences. In fact, as set out in section II, paragraph 18 of that resolution, the Secretary-General had been requested to submit to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences the implementation of the decision of the General Assembly to provide interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States.

45. Regarding the implementation of the budget that had been approved for the biennium 2002-2003 in the context of the demand for conference services and the capacity of the Secretariat to deliver those services, he wished to draw attention to the observations contained in paragraphs I.36 to I.54 of the Advisory Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/7). Those paragraphs had been endorsed by the General Assembly subject to the contents of its resolution 56/253.

46. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/56/7/Add.9), he said that the Advisory Committee agreed with the Secretary-General's proposals, subject to its comments in paragraphs 1 to 17, and recommended the appropriation of $57,785,300 to be used strictly for the purposes authorized. He drew attention to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report.

47. **Mr. Pulido** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group attached particular importance to resolutions 56/254 D, 26/242 and 56/253, in which the Assembly called for adequate conference services to be provided to bodies, committees and regional groupings. The Group of 77 and China had expected the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/919) to address those concerns, to contain proposals for the comprehensive implementation of the resolution on pattern of conferences within the approved level of resources and to restore conference services for committees and major grouping, in particular the Group of 77 and China.

48. However, the situation continued to deteriorate and the Group was being prevented from making its contribution to the work of the Organization. That was unacceptable, given the Organization's international and multilateral nature and the equal rights of its Member States. The cutbacks in services had led to difficulty in completing the work programme of a number of bodies, to the postponement of meetings, the holding of meetings without the minimum required services, and to the cancellation of a number of meetings of the Group of 77 and China.

49. The report failed to provide any alternatives or to identify the amount of resources required to allow for flexibility in obtaining conference services in exceptional circumstances outside normal meeting hours. At the same time, however, the reports on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises and on provision of conference services to the Security Council Committees concerning counter-terrorism and Afghanistan, had proposed alternative solutions in the context of General Assembly resolution 41/213 that allowed for absorption of the workload using existing capacity, commitment authority or additional appropriation. Similar creative approaches should be applied to the issue of cutbacks in services.

50. The Group attached particular importance to the provision of conference services to meetings of regional groupings and expected that the treatment of additional activities being considered in connection with the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 would be dealt with in an integrated, balanced and non-discriminatory manner, in keeping with the procedures and practices laid down in General Assembly resolution 41/213.

51. The Group reiterated its demand that all measures which adversely affected the work of the Main Committees, other bodies and regional groups, in particular the Group of 77 and China, should be withdrawn, since their work was vital to the effectiveness of the Organization.

52. **Ms. Incera** (Costa Rica) said that the tragic events of 11 September 2001 had demonstrated the vulnerability of public and private institutions in New

York. Given the Organization's symbolic importance, its visibility in the world's media and the location of its Headquarters by a river and alongside major transportation routes, the United Nations was not only an attractive but also an easy target for terrorists. She therefore welcomed the review undertaken of security and safety arrangements at the United Nations and supported the implementation of the measures proposed in paragraph 11 of document A/56/848 and the allocation of the additional resources requested for that purpose. The 56 new posts requested for the security force and security-related functions, represented a minimum, given the Organization's vulnerability. She trusted that, in filling those posts, the Secretariat would give due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. It was also important to provide serving security officers with appropriate incentives, including adequate opportunities for promotion. Lastly, she noted with concern the level of resources required for the canine explosive-detection team, the services of which were obtained on a contractual basis. It would be more cost-effective for the Organization to establish its own canine unit.

53. *Mr. Ivashchenko (Ukraine), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

54. **Ms. Wang** Xinxia (China) said that her delegation wished to align itself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences (A/56/919), she said that her delegation had always believed that the budget should provide sufficient resources for the delivery of mandated programmes and activities and that the ongoing reforms and economy measures, which it supported, should not undermine the effectiveness of the United Nations or the interests of its Members. All the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session should be fully respected and the resolutions on the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 and pattern of conferences should be implemented in a balanced manner.

55. The significance of the $75 million reduction in the level of resources available to the Organization should not be overstated. In recent bienniums, the General Assembly, had never accepted in full the level of resources proposed by the Secretary-General. She noted that, while the reduction had been approved by all Member States, there had been differences of opinion during the negotiations on what the appropriate amount should be and that delegations had not been properly informed of the consequences of the reduction that had been agreed on.

56. The limiting of conference services in March 2002 had tarnished the Organization's reputation without producing the desired savings, a situation for which Member States could not be blamed. In the case of the Fifth Committee, had brief extensions for its meetings been granted towards the end of the first part of the resumed fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, it would not have been necessary to extend that part of the session. There was a need for Member States to work together to address the impact of the cuts. In the meantime, timely and reasonable adjustments must be made in the light of actual circumstances so as to ensure the smooth running of the work of the United Nations.

57. The tragic events of 11 September 2001 had demonstrated the need to strengthen the security and safety of United Nations premises. Her delegation had no objection to the appropriation of $27,952,000 for the one-time costs associated with the alteration and improvement of the Headquarters building and its infrastructure systems. It noted, however, that there was a need to avoid overlapping with the security improvements envisaged in the capital master plan. She asked whether the review of security and safety arrangements at the United Nations would be made available to delegations and what measures were being taken by the host country, which bore a special responsibility for the organization's security. She also wished to know whether the 56 new posts proposed for the security force and security-related functions would be international or local posts and what measures were being taken to alleviate the problems with vehicular access to the Headquarters building, particularly the unacceptable delays experienced by delegations. Lastly, she emphasized that, while Members States were ready to provide the necessary resources for security improvements, the services provided must be of high quality.

58. *Mr. Effah-Apenteng (Ghana) resumed the Chair.*

59. **Ms. Buchanan** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, welcomed the review that had been undertaken of security and safety

arrangements at the United Nations. The development of a coordinated, centrally managed system to ensure the physical security and integrity of the United Nations presented a challenge, given the Organization's geographical spread and the diversity of working environments. The Secretariat was therefore to be commended for the speed with which it had undertaken the review and prepared its results. The proposals contained in the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/56/848) were practical and focused, balancing short-term and long-term needs and encompassing both systemic and physical measures to minimize security risks. She welcomed, in particular, the comprehensive nature of the security blueprint, which included both regional commissions and United Nations funds and programmes. While the cost of the package was a large sum, that expenditure was justified. Also, a significant portion of the expenditure related to one-time costs. She noted that discussions on a cost-sharing formula for security costs in Vienna had yet to be completed and urged the executive heads of the organizations located at the Vienna International Centre to give the matter due priority. Lastly, she endorsed the recommendations contained in the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/56/7/Add.9).

60. **Mr. Kennedy** (United States of America) expressed regret at the failure of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences (A/56/919) to set priorities among mandates and programmes, as requested by the General Assembly, and at the Secretariat's audacious claim that there were no more efficiency gains to be found in the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services. As was well known, the Secretary-General was conducting a thorough review of the Secretariat, the Organization's mandates and programmes, and the intergovernmental process, the outcome of which was to be presented to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session. He had no doubt that the Secretary-General would propose efficiencies and improvements in the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services and other departments. He noted with concern that, while that Department had been requested to submit quarterly spending reports in the light of its overexpenditure in the biennium 2000-2001, the first such report, which would cover the period from 1 January to 31 March 2002, had yet to be submitted. His delegation could not support the Department's request for additional resources, given that its budget had been approved only five months earlier. Such requests should be dealt with in the context of the Committee's consideration of the first performance report for the biennium 2002-2003. In the meantime, the Secretariat must develop creative solutions.

61. His delegation welcomed the timely report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/56/848). It was a core responsibility of all Member States to provide United Nations staff with a safe and secure working environment, in which they could focus on programme delivery. The Secretary-General's proposals were appropriately comprehensive, addressing the requirements of United Nations premises around the world. He welcomed, in particular, the plans to develop a global United Nations standard identification system, a measure that was long overdue. His delegation intended to raise specific questions in informal consultations. However, it wished to express its support for the proposals and urge other delegations to do likewise.

62. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation wished to align itself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Regarding the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences (A/56/919), he expressed regret that the related report of the Advisory Committee had been presented by the Chairman of that Committee in the form of an oral statement and that the text of his statement had not been translated into all the official languages. He trusted that that situation would be rectified.

63. In its resolution 56/254 D, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to present proposals for the implementation of the provisions of resolution 56/242 within the resources specified in resolutions 56/254 A, B and C. Regrettably, the report before the Committee did not contain any such proposals. Instead, it sought to justify the inadequacies and shortcomings of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services. The report also violated the principle of the equality of General Assembly resolutions by giving priority to budgeting at the expense of the implementation of mandated programmes and activities. The Organization's priorities were set out in the medium-term plan and the

programme budget merely reaffirmed those priorities. The Department's plea that it lacked the necessary resources to implement resolution 56/242 was not convincing, and, since the Secretariat had not yet informed delegations of the distribution among departments of the reduction in the overall level of the budget, it was difficult to judge whether the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services had been treated equitably. His delegation had sought to avoid the cuts but had come under tremendous pressure from other delegations to endorse them and to target the above-mentioned Department and the Department of Public Information.

64. In the light of the tragic events of 11 September 2001, the strengthening of the security and safety of United Nations premises had become a matter of urgency. As stated in General Assembly resolution 55/232, activities that could compromise the safety and security of delegations, staff and visitors should not be outsourced. He trusted that, should the Assembly decide to approve the $57.8 million that had been requested for security improvements, the Organization would no longer have to rely on outside assistance. He noted, in that connection, that the services of the canine explosive-detection team were currently obtained on a contractual basis and expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would explore all possible alternatives to the current arrangement. Lastly, he asked what type of security training was envisaged and whether it would be provided internally, by Member States, or by outside contractors.

65. **Ms. Wahab** (Indonesia) said that the requirement in paragraph 6 of resolution 56/242 that meetings of Charter and mandated bodies must be serviced in full as a priority had not been fulfilled. The non-availability of conference and support services, for example, had hampered the work of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Sustainable Development and prevented it from discharging its mandate. The Secretariat should have shown some flexibility in that instance. On the question of the security of United Nations premises, her delegation would work closely with other delegations to seek the resources needed for that important area.

66. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba) noted that, despite the stated interest of the group of Member States whose work was affected, neither the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolution 56/242 nor the related report of the Advisory Committee contained any proposals for a solution to the problem. She noted further that, while alternative solutions involving additional appropriations had been proposed within the framework of the report on security and the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, those practical solutions had not been proposed for conference services. That differentiated treatment was a matter of concern to delegations. At the very least, resources should have been identified in exceptional circumstances when it was important to complete a particular meeting rather than postponing items on its agenda to a later stage, which was a burden to delegations.

67. On the question of security, adequate financing should be made available for the safety and security of the Organization's premises. Nevertheless, she would welcome an explanation of how the additional amount of $56 million would be provided. Bearing in mind the cutbacks, she wondered also whether any savings measures were contemplated for the first budget year or whether the additional resources would be provided by Member States.

68. **Ms. Chebomui** (Kenya) said that, given the increased level of risk, the measures taken to enhance the security of United Nations premises were very timely. Her delegation, however, disagreed with the strong language used in the Secretary-General's report, which described the situation in Nairobi as unstable. Kenya was one of the most secure countries in the region, which was why it had become a haven for refugees, especially from the region of the Great Lakes. That very influx of refugees, however, and the proliferation of small arms and other weapons had created increased security challenges, in response to which the Government had strengthened security in Nairobi and its environs. It was not true that demonstrations were common in Nairobi, and when they took place they posed no danger to the United Nations Office, which was some 20 miles from the city centre. She reserved the right to return to the subject at a later stage.

69. **Mr. Adam** (Israel) said that his delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposals and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee to upgrade the Organization's security infrastructure. On the question of the implementation of Assembly resolution 56/242, his delegation had supported the cuts in the budget for conference services the previous December. He was of the view, however, that the

Secretariat had simplified the task for itself and had placed the entire burden of the cuts on Member States while leaving intact the posts and salaries of Secretariat staff. Fairer and more justifiable ways of trimming expenses must be sought rather than subjecting delegates to a lack of heat, water and air conditioning.

70. **Mr. Tootoonchian** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said it was not clear to him which proposals for implementation of specific provisions of resolution 56/242 were being referred to in the first paragraph of the Secretary-General's report. He could find no proposals anywhere in the document.

71. **Mr. Niwa** (Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services), responding to the questions and comments of delegations, said that he had taken note of the observations made by the representative of Costa Rica on the hiring and promotion of staff. On the question of bomb detection services, he had taken note of the Advisory Committee's recommendations to explore all alternatives and would continue to do so; it should be made clear, however, that the Organization could not discharge that function by itself and must do so in cooperation with the host country.

72. Replying to the questions posed by the representative of China, he said that the study that was being conducted within the framework of the capital master plan had been somewhat delayed because of the complex nature of the task and the need to avoid cost overruns. He hoped that the documentation would be completed within a few weeks for submission to the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly. He would brief the Committee when the exercise was completed. Execution of many capital improvement works had been deferred to await the realization of the capital master plan. The amounts that had been brought forward would be deducted once the capital master plan was approved. Everything possible would be done to avoid duplication.

73. On the question of security and access to the garage, he confirmed that the 43rd Street entrance had been closed after the attack of 11 September, but had since been reopened to vehicular traffic. He also acknowledged that access to the compound from the "FDR" highway was outdated and that the security service had no choice but to inspect suspicious items at entrances to the compound. Security of the staff was the paramount concern and all concerned must be patient and bear with the Administration as the security infrastructure was upgraded.

74. Addressing the concerns that had been raised by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic with respect to the architectural integrity of the Headquarters buildings, he said that there were temporary and permanent aspects of the work to be done. In the execution of the permanent changes, every effort would be made to ensure harmony with the existing buildings. He would address the issue of training during the informal consultations.

75. **Mr. Hatbwachs** (Controller) took note of the dissatisfaction that many delegations had expressed with regard to the implementation of resolution 56/242. The Secretariat had been requested to implement the provisions of that resolution within the resources that had been specified in the budget resolution. The report before the Committee showed that, as the Secretariat had earlier indicated, full implementation was impossible following the budget cuts. With regard to specific measures that might be taken, further proposals could be formulated. In the meantime, services for regional and other major groupings would be provided on an "as-available" basis, in accordance with established practice. He wished to reiterate that proposals would be considered within the context of the next programme budget to mitigate the delay in the issuance of summary and verbatim records.

76. Responding to the questions posed by delegations, he said that paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report of the Secretary-General contained specific proposals for the implementation of resolution 56/242. On the issue of differentiated treatment for conference services, no additional resources had been proposed for the provision of conference services because the Secretariat had been mandated to provide them within existing resources. The mission in Afghanistan and the Counter-Terrorism Committee were newly mandated and required resources, which had not been provided for in the budget resolution. He did not see any possibility of savings at the current time as the dollar had weakened considerably and the Administration was precluded from creating artificial vacancies in order to fund activities.

77. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that he had received no answer to his question about security training. He had sought information about the training procedures for security officials, who the trainers were

and which countries provided training services. On the question of helping the host country to look for explosives and other materials, he wished to know what mechanism was in place to cover the Organization's needs for inspection and whether results-based budgeting would be applied to the measures to enhance safety and security. As for the implementation of resolution 56/242, there should be no preference or priority between the various resolutions of the Assembly and implementation should not be conditioned on other matters. All resolutions adopted should be automatically implemented.

78. **Mr. Niwa** (Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services), replying to the concerns raised by the delegation of Syria, said that he would respond in detail to the question about security training during the informal consultations and bilaterally. By way of general comment, there were four types of training for safety and security personnel: a staff development programme organized by the Office of Human Resources Management; a security and safety training programme that provided training in such areas as the use of firearms, first aid, and incident command; training by outside experts in specific technical areas; and training by local law enforcement authorities in hazardous material response, driving and escorting dignitaries.

79. On the subject of capital improvements, a detailed study was under way and an amount of $35 million had been allocated for improvements, out of which $17 million would be brought forward. Issues of access to various locations and response to hazardous materials were all covered by the study.

80. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that the Secretariat did not discriminate between resolutions of the Assembly. The fact of the matter was that resolution 56/242 requested the Secretary-General to do a number of things, but resolution 56/254 took away the resources to discharge that mandate. The Secretary-General would be derelict in his duty if he ignored the level of resources that had been approved in the budget. Additional resources had been proposed for conference services, which would be offset by cuts in other sections.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.